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OCTOBER MEETING."

A stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, October 11th, at eleven o'clock, A.M.; the President, the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; the City of Boston; the Chicago Historical Society; the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences; the Impartial-Suffrage League; the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec; the Mercantile Library Association of Boston; the New-England Loyal-Publication Society; the State Historical Society of Iowa; the Publisher of the "Savannah Daily Republican"; John Appleton, M.D.; Henry G. Denny, Esq.; Ira Divoll, Esq.; Rev. S. Hopkins Emery; Hon. Samuel Hooper; Frederic Kidder, Esq.; Rev. Howard Malcom, D.D.; Mr. George Derby Welles; Mrs. Joseph E. Worcester; and from Messrs. Green, Lawrence, Lothrop, C. Robbins, Sabine, Wheatland, and Winthrop, of the Society.

The President read the following letter from the Hon. B. B. French, Commissioner of Public Buildings in Washington, proposing to present to the Society an iron table, made, by his order, from pieces of the dome of the Capitol:—

Office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, Capitol of the
United States, WASHINGTON CITY, Aug. 26, 1866.

Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have an iron table, which I had made of three pieces of the dome of the Capitol: the feet, or stand, being one of the ornaments of the inner dome, inverted; the pillar being one

of the balusters of the iron railing around the opening beneath the eye of the dome; and the leaf, a square piece cut from one of the thin iron panels. It is quite a handsome, and a very solid, affair. It has stood in my library every winter, and in my garden every summer, since it was made. It is unique, and there probably will never be another like it in the world. It stood on the platform in front of the Capitol when President Lincoln was last inaugurated; and, as soon as it was brought back to my house, I wrote upon a piece of paper the following, and stuck it, with mucilage, underneath the leaf, viz.:—

Saturday, March 4, 1865, one o'clock, P.M.

This table, formed of three pieces of iron cast for the new dome of the Capitol, stood upon the platform erected for the inaugural ceremonies of this day. It was in front of President Lincoln when he delivered his inaugural address, and a tumbler of water intended for his use stood upon it. He took the oath of office standing at its side.

B. B. FRENCH, *Commissioner of Public Buildings.*

This table I told President Lincoln I would give to him to take to Illinois as a memento of the Capitol, when he should retire from the Presidency. Alas! the hand of the assassin deprived me of that pleasure.

Then I promised Senator Foot, whose efforts for the completion of the Capitol were far beyond those of any other man, that I would make him a present of the table, to take with him to Vermont, when he retired from the Senate. He has been gathered to his fathers; and I mourn deeply and sincerely his loss, for he was my dear and cherished friend.

The table still stands in my garden, to me a sad memento.

To-day, as I was sitting in the garden, I observed that the weather had detached the paper pasted beneath the leaf, so much that it hung down in sight. I detached entirely as much as I could get of it, and the fragment is before me.

Mrs. French sat at my side, and I said to her, "I think it my duty to deposit that table in some place where it will be appreciated and preserved. It has become too sacred a relic to be lost. *I will offer it as a present to the Massachusetts Historical Society.*" Acting upon that suggestion of my mind, I now have the honor, through you, my old and respected and dear friend, to offer that table to the honored Society above mentioned. If it be accepted, I will have the table well boxed, and send it, directed as you may wish, to the Society at Boston.

If you can find a photograph of Mr. Lincoln's second inauguration,

you will see that table very prominent in the foreground of the picture.

I shall preserve the fragment of the written inscription, and replace it with some adhesive gum or paste beneath the leaf, before I send the table.

I am, dear Sir, with high respect, your sincere friend and obedient servant,

B. B. FRENCH, *Commissioner of Public Buildings.*

This donation having been gratefully accepted by the President, Mr. French announced in a letter dated September 4th, also read by the President, that the table had been boxed up and forwarded to Boston, where it had safely arrived before this meeting.

The President was directed to return the acknowledgments of the Society for this donation.

The President announced the death of the Rev. Francis L. Hawks, D.D., a Corresponding Member, in the following words:—

Rev. FRANCIS L. HAWKS, D.D., died in New York on the 27th of September. He was one of the most accomplished and eloquent preachers of the Church to which he belonged, of which he had more than once refused a bishopric. Born in Newbern, North Carolina, and graduated at the University of that State, he first adopted the profession of the law, was admitted to the bar, and became a member of the North-Carolina Legislature. But he soon lost all taste for politics and legal practice, studied for the ministry, and was ordained in 1827. He was the rector of leading parishes, successively, in New Haven, Philadelphia, New Orleans, and New York; and his last clerical service was at the laying of the corner-stone of a new chapel which was to be built for him in the latter city. Dr. Hawks was not less distinguished as a literary man than as a clergyman. He was one of the

ablest and most brilliant contributors to the "New-York Review," as long as it lasted. He published a History of North Carolina, a work on Egypt and its Monuments, two volumes of contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of the United States, and a considerable Introduction to the account of Perry's Expedition to Japan, together with some smaller works. He died at the age of sixty-eight, having been born on the 10th of June, 1798.

Mr. ELLIS AMES exhibited the original letter of John Adams, dated Quincy, January 5th, 1818, addressed to William Wirt, and printed in the Appendix to the edition of "Novanglus and Massachusettensis," of 1819, pp. 238-240. It was found in Raleigh, N.C., in a grove, by a United-States soldier, Mr. Sevey, who lent it to Mr. Ames, by whom a copy was made and presented to the Society.

Mr. WATERSTON exhibited original profiles of General Washington and of Mrs. Washington, taken from their shadow upon the wall. He also exhibited beautifully executed copies of these profiles, made by himself, which he presented to the Society. The copy of the profile of Washington bears the following inscription: "The Profile of General Washington taken from his shadow upon the wall, declared by those who knew him to be as perfect a likeness as a profile can give. The original profile from which this was taken was in the possession of Mrs. Eleanor Custis Lewis, the granddaughter of Mrs. Washington, and was presented by her to Mrs. Elizabeth Bordley Gibson, of Philadelphia. The above exact copy was made by R. C. Waterston, and was given by him to the Massachusetts Historical

Society, March, 1866." The copy of the profile of Mrs. Washington bears a similar attestation.

Mr. Waterston also exhibited and read several original letters of Washington; whereupon, on the motion of Dr. ROBBINS, the acknowledgments of the Society were expressed to Mr. Waterston for his exact and beautiful and valuable copies of the profiles of General and Mrs. Washington.

The President presented, from Mr. Charles H. Hart, of Philadelphia, a broadside containing a list of Theses of Harvard College for the Commencement in 1759.

NOVEMBER MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, Thursday, November 8th, at eleven o'clock, A.M.; the President, the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the State of Ohio; the American Numismatic and Archæological Society; the Chicago Historical Society; the New-England Historic-Genealogical Society; the New-England Loyal Publication Society; the Proprietors of the "Heraldic Journal"; the Proprietors of the "Savannah Daily Republican"; John Appleton, M.D.; Rear-Admiral Charles H. Davis; General J. Watts De Peyster; Rev. Thomas Hill, D.D.; Edward Jarvis, M.D.; Benjamin P. Johnson, Esq.; Hon. William D. Kelly; Mr. Wil-